

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

N E W S F L A S H E S

March 15 - 31, 1 9 3 6

I M P O R T A N T A N N O U N C E M E N T

SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF FRENCH PAINTING: A most interesting exhibition of the work of six twentieth century French artists will open Sunday, March 15th, in the South Loan Gallery.

This group, which has been assembled by Mr. Harold Woodbury Parsons from various collections, will later go to Colorado Springs where it will be shown in connection with the opening of their new Art Center there.

Mr. Parsons has stressed the fact that this is not to be considered in the light of a comprehensive exhibition, such as has just been given in New York of the works of Van Gogh, but rather as an introduction to the tendencies and the development of the present day school of Paris.

The outstanding man at the beginning of the century, and still one of the great giants of painting, is Paul Cézanne. From the Josef Stransky Collection will come a superb landscape, "View of Auvers through the Trees", the simple yet monumental "Still Life with Apples", and most important of all, the fine figure piece "Siesta", in the rich, full-bodied colours of his finest period. Paul Rosenberg is sending from Paris a hitherto little known landscape "Mont Sainte Victoire", which it is hoped will reach the Gallery in time for the Sunday opening.

Renoir, famous for his orchestrations of colours, will be represented by a series of his superb "Bathers" and several flower pieces. The famous "Gabrielle", which was one of the central points of interest in our French 19th century show of last spring, will again be lent by Durand-Ruel, as this was especially requested by Colorado Springs. Paul Rosenberg is also sending an entrancing "Portrait of a Young Girl" and a colourful canvas of roses in a crystal vase.

Amadeo Modigliani, the twentieth century inheritor of the exquisite line of Botticelli, has not been seen before in Kansas City and will be represented by three portraits of haunting beauty. In his youth Modigliani captured all the prizes offered in Italy for his academic draftsmanship. Later in his life he accented line and many have accused him, incorrectly, of not being able to draw the human figure. From the Stransky Collection will come a "Portrait of Madame Zborowska" which has an ethereal quality both in form and in colour. Mrs. Cornelius Sullivan, whose fine collection is known to us here, is sending two feminine portraits.

The three storm centers of art of today, Picasso, Matisse, and Braque, will also be represented by typical canvases. From the versatile brush of Picasso, Pierre Matisse is sending a superb composition "Entombment", and from the Stransky Collection comes a blue period view of Barcelona. Mr. Matisse is sending one of the Odalisque series by his father and there will also be shown, his lovely "Young Woman in Rose".

This group, comprising as it does the work of the founders of the present day School of Paris, will be one of the most important exhibitions of the season, and one which no one can afford to miss.

The exhibition will continue through the middle of April.

The Masterpiece room will feature for the week of March 22nd the "Portrait of a Bearded Man" by Lucas Cranach. This exquisite little portrait from the comparatively rare field of German painting is one of the most important panels in the Gallery collection and since its recent reframing in a more appropriate shadow box appears a veritable jewel in its setting of soft green velvet from 16th century Flanders.

During the week of March 29th, the Masterpiece will be a group of Chinese porcelains of the Sung Dynasty (960-1280). Matchless in shape, glaze texture, and craftsmanship, the wares of this period are recognized as the best products of a nation which leads the world in the ceramic arts. The group of five pieces are all of the same type generally known as "ying Ch'ing" or "pure blue-green" from the colour of the limpid, glassy glaze. The group has been selected to represent different techniques - cut and pressed designs, undecorated and modeled figures. This latter class is represented by a large figure of the Buddhist deity, Kuan Yin, unique in size and quality. Seldom do we meet with greater freedom of modeling or a more convincing representation of this goddess of compassionate mercy.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: On Wednesday evening, March 17th, Mr. Laurence Sickman will continue his discussion of Japanese art with a lecture on painting of the great Yamato School. It was this school which broke from the Chinese tradition and influence and formed a purely native school of Japanese art, developing the long narrative scrolls which are perhaps Japan's greatest contribution to the world of art, being unique in that country.

Interest in German art is increasing continually in this country. There has just appeared from the press, for instance, A Catalogue of German Paintings of the Middle Ages and Renaissance in American Collections by Dr. Charles L. Kuhn of Harvard University. The Gallery is pleased to note that our two paintings are listed, the Cranach Portrait of a Bearded Man and the St. George and St. Wolfgang by the Master of the Hausbuch. The latter is the only one by that master in America and is honored by a full page reproduction.

Cranach is one of the most popular of all German artists, many of his paintings appearing in American public and private collections. As one of the "Big Four" of German painting that includes Dürer, Holbein and Grünewald, he will be discussed in a lecture on German Painting of the 15th and 16th centuries by Mr. Freeman on Wednesday evening, March 25th.

Chinese ceramic art, like Chinese landscape painting, reached its peak of artistic achievement during the Sung Dynasty. It was during this period that the famous Tzu Chow wares, such as our great dragon vase which is now on exhibition in London, and the delicate celadon glazes which so fascinated Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries were made. Mr. Sickman's lecture on Wednesday evening, April 1, will deal with the potteries and porcelains of this most important period.

FRIENDS OF ART: The society of the Friends of Art which was formed last year to augment the permanent collection with works of contemporary artists which cannot be purchased by the Nelson Trust funds, is to start a drive for new memberships.

In spite of the short time that it has been functioning, four important works by contemporary American artists have been secured. They are "The Sunreader" by Thomas Hart Benton, "View of Maluate" by Luigi Lucioni, "The Dead Pheasant" by Henry Varnum Poor, and the water-colour "Stallion and Jack" by John Steuart Curry.

Activities of the Friends of Art include bi-weekly meetings at the Gallery when the latest exhibitions and paintings of outstanding artists are discussed, the works studied by photographs and the reviews noted; cooperation with the Gallery in bringing contemporary exhibitions to Kansas City; and the furthering of the formation of collections in the contemporary field by members of the society.

It is hoped that a number of the readers of the News Flashes will be interested in assisting in this most worthwhile work, and the Secretary will gladly give information about the ten dollar member-

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GIFTS: The Gallery is most happy to announce the presentation, by Mrs. James Love of Liberty, of two portraits by George Caleb Bingham to the permanent collection. The portraits are of her father and mother, Judge James Turner Vance Thompson and Emily Warner Drey Thompson, pioneers of Clay County.

The two paintings, which were done in 1857 at Jefferson City, have been on loan at the Gallery since April, 1934, and have figured in the two special exhibitions of the work of Bingham that have been held in the loan galleries.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Burnap have presented to the Gallery an important Italian mirror of the Baroque 17th century. The frame, which is very wide and of wood covered with gold leaf, is made up of curling acanthus leaves and amorini which are exceptionally well carved. It is a most welcome addition to the growing collection of furniture and the decorative arts. After slight repairs, it will be displayed in the decorative arts gallery.

OUT OF TOWN VISITORS: Professor Yukio Yashiro, Director of the Tokio Fine Arts School, spent all of Sunday, March 1st, in the Gallery. Professor Yashiro is en route to Japan after a two year's absence during which time he has acted as visiting professor of Chinese painting at Harvard University. He is now returning to his duties at the Research Bureau for the study of Far Eastern Art, which with its thousands of photographs and material and its excellent but small museum, is the recognized headquarters for the study of that field.

Professor Yashiro was most generous in his praise of the Oriental Collection here, stating that it was a "joy and a pleasure to see such museums as those of Kansas City and Boston where the quality is so uniformly high, even after seeing the London exhibition". In his opinion, the Nelson Gallery scroll of "Palace Ladies Making Music" is not only one of the most important Chinese paintings in America, but one of the most beautiful paintings from any standpoint which he knows of, any time or country. He praised, too, the important Chi stele and the Han house model, which he believes to be the most important early example of its kind.

Perhaps best known to Westerners as an authority on Botticelli, Professor Yashiro also found many things to admire in the European field. He particularly mentioned our recently acquired Manet "Portrait of Line Campineanu" and the Chardin "Bubble Blowers".

Mr. Arthur Schnabel, last week's soloist with the Kansas City Philharmonic Orchestra, also visited the Gallery on Friday. He, too, spent sometime examining the "Palace Ladies" scroll which, with its rhythmic pattern and singing line drawing, reminded him of the Mozart concerto which he was to play that evening.

Mr. Chauncey J. Hamlin, President of the Buffalo Museum of Science, and Mrs. Hamlin were visitors at the Gallery this week. Mr. Hamlin is particularly interested in methods of installation and was impressed with the beauty and efficiency of the porcelain and bronze cases. Mr. and Mrs. Hamlin are on their way to the west coast to sail for the Orient.

RADIO TALKS: Have you been listening to the five minute gallery chats at two o'clock each Saturday afternoon over Station W9XBY? This time is given the Gallery through the courtesy of Janet's Club Calendar Program and will help to keep you posted on the events of the week at the Gallery.

The invitation which was issued to study clubs a week or so ago is still open. A number of clubs have already taken advantage of it and we hope others will do so. In case you did not hear it, the Gallery invites study clubs or other similar organizations to attend our Wednesday evening lectures, as a group, and if there is some particular section of the Gallery in which you are particularly interested, arrangements may be made for a guide to conduct the group through that section after the lecture. Arrangements should be made in advance through the secretary at the Gallery.

Gallery Tours - March 17 - Masterpiece of the Week
March 18-27 at " 18 - Dutch-Flemish-German - Mr. Freeman
2 p.m. No Painting
charge to join " 19 - Chinese Ceramics - Mr. Sickman
them. " 20 - American Painting - Miss Jackson

March 24 - Masterpiece of the Week
" 25 - American Indian - Miss Hughes
" 26 - Japanese Art - Mr. Sickman
" 27 - English and French - Mr. Wittmann
Painting

Evening Lectures - March 18 - Japanese Tosa Painting - Mr. Sickman
8 p.m. in Atkins
Auditorium. No March 25 - German Painting of the - Mr. Freeman
admission charge 15th and 16th cen.

April 1 - Porcelain of the Sung - Mr. Sickman
Dynasty

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